

## - The MONTH with the EDITOR -

Notes, reflections, comment upon medical and health news in both the scientific and public press, briefs of sorts from here, there and everywhere.

Two years' work under the Sheppard-Towner Law shows that for the millions of dollars of taxes expended in carrying out its provisions the people purchased:

- 26,353 child health conferences;
- 594,136 babies examined;
- 9,669 prenatal conferences held;
- 74,659 mothers advised;
- 1,706 infant welfare stations established;
- 245 prenatal centers established;
- 39,910 midwives instructed;
- 162,073 mothers attending mothers' classes;
- 5,476 little mothers' classes organized.

Aside from the intelligent medical service included here, which was largely *donated* by doctors, the figures are not conducive to enthusiasm.

The encouragement, impetus and added strength these bureaucrats have given to the practice of medicine by midwives ought to cause them to blush for shame.

Privacy is the sweetest element in liberty, it is the highest fruitage of civilization, its worth unknown until it becomes difficult or lost. When the life of the plain people becomes public, a nation is on the decline. Life is mostly a thing of recesses and retirements. There is no such thing, ultimately, as a "public character," except it be The Almighty. We are all private characters. But when the pressure of curiosity or exploitation begins to be felt on our privacy, a feeling of beleaguement ensues which leads to protective measures.—Dearborn Independent.

Birth controllers may view with glee the essays now appearing in periodical literature pointing out the prohibitive costs of babies. It's a sad song as it is being sung, but the singers would elevate the quality of their music if they would compare the cost of babies with the costs of their avoidance rather than with the cost of motor cars.

One recent writer, after painfully building up the costs of birth and early care of a baby to some \$500 and placing the blame therefor upon those who serve, and offering these excessive costs as the reason there were only 1,792,646 births recorded in the United States in 1923, shows in the same paragraph that 3,637,216 passenger automobiles were sold during the same year.

Now there is logic and consistency for you to the nth degree. Who in this day would think of assuming the responsibilities, duties and pleasures of parenthood when for only a few more dollars they can purchase a motor car?

Our statisticians, who salve their consciences with their budget making, are careful to swell the costs of birth by adding the costs of after-care of mother and baby, but they compare these costs with the naked motor car without anything for extras or upkeep, even then there does not appear to be any defensible reason why people who pay for nearly four million motor cars cannot pay for half that number of babies at a quarter of the price.

Babies *are* expensive, but if the luxuries demanded by society are eliminated and only essentials considered, the increase in cost has not kept pace with increase in the cost of potatoes, clothing or shoes. Even at the present prices, producing babies is the least expensive end result of sexual indulgence, except for the itinerant polygamist who accepts his pleasures where he finds them and never mind the consequences. Even he or she certainly pays more in the long run than all the costs of decent, legalized monogamous sexual indulgence and its normal products. Practitioners of contraception and abortiception don't work for nothing. Some of their fees are said to rival those of the most soulless obstetricians. Then there is the question of dangers to health and life. More illness and more deaths are traceable to contra- and aborticeptionists

than are incident to normal child-birth, and they are more expensive financially and otherwise.

Moral: Many budget makers and social economists are stupid asses or astute propagandists.

"Yesterday's mail," writes one of our correspondents, "brought me an amazing item. No less an institution than the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, endowed partly by the late Dr. Norman Bridge and directed by R. H. Millikan, Ph. D., Sc. D., LL. D., Nobel Laureate in Physics, employs an osteopath as 'Physician to the Football Team' (p. 176 of catalog for 1925). On p. 21, Floyd L. Hanes, D. O., is listed as a 'D. O.' College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, among the staff of instruction and research. How can we blame the poor public for lack of discrimination in the light of endorsement such as this one by super-scientists to youthful and inexperienced though receptive minds?"

A California actress also recently left an endowment designed to cripple as much as possible scientific methods of progress in the prevention and treatment of diseases of man and animals. California is young and will outgrow some of the things now considered important. After all, osteopaths ought to be strong for physics.

That vaccination always completely protects a person against smallpox is no more debatable than that two times two equals four. All intelligent persons accept this fact and yet intelligent persons do sometimes contract smallpox. A lot of them are doing so now in California.

How can we explain it? Certainly they don't need more education. Even morons, that the psychologists tell us constitute a large percentage of our population, ought to be able to appreciate and apply so simple and certain a preventive as is vaccination. What ought we to do about it? Shall the law be enforced and people protected against themselves by force, or should we permit them to do as they please? *The smallpox patient is absolutely harmless in a vaccinated community.* He is not as dangerous as are many other classes of sick people whom we do not disturb. So why disturb him, ask a growing number of writers.

It is a fact that most people who are "conscientious objectors" to vaccination are also objectors to interference with other more essential and more serious dangers. With this as a text, some writers frankly recommend suspension of the law, allowing smallpox to take its toll and remove such people from the community. Too cold-blooded to endorse, to be sure, but should we spend huge sums in attempting to enforce vaccination as a matter of public protection where personal protection is so simple and so inexpensive? What would happen if we stopped trying to enforce vaccination and permit an individual to have his smallpox and to convey it to others of the small anti-vaccination element of the community? In theory such philosophy is not easy to refute, but actually in the few places where such policies were put into operation, and no more attention paid to smallpox than to stomachache, these alleged non-believers made an awful howl.

At least we must do all we can to protect by vaccination as near 100 per cent of our *children* as possible. They can't think for themselves and to allow a child, or other incompetent citizen to get smallpox ought to be followed by a manslaughter charge against someone. As for adult unbelievers, that's their business and so are the consequences.

The lengthening light of Osler's Influence on medicine gains new brilliance in the second edition of his system of Modern Medicine, edited by Thomas McCrae, now coming from the presses of Lea & Febiger.

Encyclopedic treatises on medicine are largely being

replaced by more numerous and smaller books, monographic in character. This is well. But every doctor needs at least one "system" of medicine handy on his office shelves. Osler's Modern Medicine supplies this need as does no other publication with which we are familiar.

"The real original causes of all chronic diseases; which, though they have been multiplied without end, and numberless causes been assigned them, are certainly not many, and their first causes very few. I think they may very fairly be reduced to these three: Indolence, Intemperance, and Vexation."

Doctor William Cadogan said this in his "Dissertation on Gout" about two hundred years ago. Others said it hundreds of years before he did and still others are quoting it on the front page of newspapers today as a new and remarkable discovery.

By the way, doctor, if you have not read Cadogan's "dissertation" with an introduction by Doctor Ruhräh, published recently, you have missed a delicious treat.

Only three of the 1650 persons examined at the "Periodic Health Examination" clinic of the New York Health Board, were found free from "appreciable physical defects."

Another group found *none* free from physical defects in several thousand examined.

Hi: "Gee, but she's a beaut!" enthusiastically pointing to his new car.

Girl: "Why do you allude to the car as 'she,' Hi?"

Hi: "Because it has beautiful curves, is not altogether trustworthy, and keeps its owner broke."

"I have never known a thinking man who did not believe in God."—Robert A. Millikan (Collier's).

The Editor of McClure's Magazine appears surprised, not to say peeved, at the reaction produced by an article his magazine published last May on "New Successes in Treating Deafness." The letters of "approval" and "ardent confirmation" following the publication evidently pleased the editor, but those from educated physicians evidently proved disturbing. The editor (February issue) now says that "We sought the opinion of every registered osteopathic physician in the United States and Europe; nearly all responded and we found that Muncie and his method had the approval of between 97 and 98 per cent of these confreres."

Nevertheless, the editor seems unhappy and even resentful that letters from medical men should "condemn" and "reject" Muncie and his method. The editor considers that the "two published verdicts against him (Muncie) came from medical sources."

Apparently even some of the osteopaths objected to the publicity given to Muncie, which the editor of McClure's answers by this gem:

"But if men are dying of thirst in the desert are you going to forbid another to point out the water-hole because that would be giving publicity to Jenkins, its owner? Publicity for Doctor Muncie was an inevitable incident of publicity for a piece of extraordinary news for the deaf."

Note—McClure's has ceased publication.

"The Trend of Veterans' Relief Legislation: State Medicine," is the title of an illuminating editorial (Jour. A. M. A., Jan. 23) that ought to have the serious attention of physicians, not so much in their own interests as in that of human welfare in general. CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has repeatedly called attention to the dangers inherent in this "trend" which is so fully exposed in this long communication.

From apparently reliable sources we are informed that the number of proprietary (patent) remedies for sale has increased during the last thirty years from less than 1000 to over 60,000.

These industries are said to support one-twelfth of all advertising. The annual sales of "patent" medicines exceed \$275,000,000, or more than twice as much as is paid for drugs ordered by doctors. Both the number of cures and their costs are increasing very rapidly which,

of course, signifies that sick people, or those who think they are sick, are increasing in numbers and that in spite of all of our "health education"—or is it because of the "education"—more and more people are diagnosing and treating their own illnesses, at least during the stage when intelligent medical advice would have the greatest value.

#### According to the Public Press:

—An "Herb Physician" who, according to his advertisements carried by some California newspapers, is practicing medicine—seemingly illegally—is seeking patients through what he terms "educational articles." His "education" consists among other things in this:

"The heart is red like the sun. It controls the circulation of the blood of the body. The natural color of the fire element is also red; therefore, the heart is classified under the fire element of the body. When the five principal elements are working with equal balance and power, the heart is free from disease."

—When well and strong and feeling fine we seldom think about doctors, and if we do it is generally with the comforting thought that medical science has conquered almost everything but cancer.

But let us catch a common cold and fail to shake it off in a day and we set to thinking of the thousands of years in which the millions of medical men have failed to find a speedy cure for so simple a malady.

To which the profession replies that it is not a simple and may prove a very serious malady if not taken in time and that the best way to take it is to take the best advice. It is not what the doctor does not know but what the patient thinks he knows himself that is the danger in a common cold. A man with a cold is a sick man and may become sicker if he neglects it.—Editorial, San Francisco Bulletin.

—Do you sleep "efficiently"? Sleep is largely a bad habit which causes us to waste time in unconsciousness that might be devoted to work or play. Socrates said it, Edison endorsed it, and certain modern scientists have recently "proved" it, or at least that is what the press gets out of their claims.

Sleep is a "form of intoxication," so it is said, and as evidence offered in support of this claim, it is related that a drunkard sleeps and as a rule he wakes detoxified. Paradoxes mean little when science must be popularized. The scientists did conclude that:

"The intoxication which leads to sleep is caused evidently by an excess of toxins or poisons produced by muscular and nerve exertion. They are thrown off when the body and mind are at rest, and complete rest is achieved through sleep."

The difficulty of harmonizing this theory with the well-known fact that some of the most active people give least time to sleeping was overcome by concluding:

"It is not so much how long we sleep, as how fast our sleep mechanisms work while we are asleep. In short, sleep has not only length but depth. If this assumption be true, the length of time that people sleep is very largely a habit. It might be possible to cause their sleep mechanism to work faster, just as by a series of reflexes we can make the salivary glands work faster."

As a matter of fact, the work of these investigators was conscientious and probably has scientific value, but in attempts to popularize and dramatize their studies as news, delicious material for the funny page has been produced.

—"It is just as natural to die as to be born," writes Doctor W. W. Keen (McClure's, February), in opening his discussion of man's triple life (not three lives, but three phases of one life) which he illustrates with this diagram:

The	B The	D The
	I	E Spiritual
Prenatal	R	A or
	T	T Disembodied
Life	H	Life H Life

From this text our distinguished colleague delivers an entrancing birthday sermon. Doctor Keen was 89 years old on January 19, 1926.

—Figures made public by the Community Chest of San Francisco estimating the cost of child raising to be from \$25 to \$37 per month and said "to embrace everything a child could need or want 'without extravagance,' are interesting if true.

The report allocates these costs as: "Subsistence, \$12; clothing, \$5.40; medical attention, 50 cents; housing, \$7; education when public schools are used, 10 cents; administration, salaries and overhead, \$12."

Other estimates more reliable than these show that with their time given to charity, figured even at the wages of skilled artisans, the doctors of San Francisco alone, to say nothing of other health agencies, contribute well over two million dollars to the health of the poor annually. Certainly more than 12 cents a month of this service is justly chargeable to the cost of raising children.

—"Spank the Mother and Save the Child" was the main heading of one "boilerplate" page in the Sunday supplements recently. This page, or at least that part of it not occupied by the picture of the "noted psychiatrist" author and the usual type of cartoons, was given over largely to a collection of the usual headline type of meaningless and stupid platitudes.

Charlatans do this sort of thing better, but they usually pay for their space.

—When county and municipal governments go into the hospital business for pay in competition with other hospitals their troubles begin. This appears to be at least one of the causes of the troubles of the new San Mateo County Hospital recently featured in the public press.

It seems that patients able to pay—something at least—went to the county hospital because the charges were so low that they could not be met by hospitals that have no subsidy from tax money to absorb their losses. After contracting debts aggregating some \$75,000 the patients refused to pay, and so the superintendent's resignation was requested. Said the superintendent in submitting her resignation:

"It was my failure to be a good politician that proved my undoing."

—An actress wrote George Bernard Shaw: "I am reputed to be one of the most beautiful women in the world, and you have one of the most brilliant brains. Can't we start a race of our own?"

"My son," Shaw replied, "would doubtless inherit his looks from me and his brains from you, so the experiment would be a failure."

—Some California newspapers are selling space to some disgustingly wild claims of people who are labeled "Herb Physicians." One of these "Herb Physicians" states openly, "No matter how chronic and how stubborn your case is and how many physicians have failed, *come and see us for effective treatment.*" (Italics ours.)

Here is the published offer to do what the law specifically prescribes may be done only by those licensed by the state to practice medicine.

—Dear Old Doctor Lorenz found it harder, on his recent trip to our country "to see his old patients," to get his publicity stuff into the news columns. Some papers, it is said, advised his representatives to see the advertising department.

However, by promulgating the old axiom that the "good die young" and elaborating it into detailed claims of how excess of virtue is killing Americans, he succeeded in interesting editors.

Funny world, isn't it?

### California, Nevada, and Utah Doctors Publish Elsewhere:

[Note—Members of the California, Nevada, and Utah Medical Associations are invited to supply the editor with reprints or marked copies of magazines containing their articles or very brief abstracts. All that we receive will be noted regularly in this space.—Editor.]

—Samuel A. Durr (Am. Jour. Apoth., 9, 1, p. 66) discusses "Modified Tendon Tucking." The author's tuck is made as usual, its base being slightly farther back from the tendinous insertion than the height of the tuck itself. It is then secured by a catgut suture at each edge, embracing less than one-third of the tendon. Two heavy silk sutures are now placed as in Reese's advancement operation. Each goes from without inwards, through the con-

junctiva and tuck, at the junction of the middle and outer third, and back from within outward, near the edge of the tuck. The suture is tied on the outside, and reintroduced behind this stitch, through the tuck tendon. It is then inserted through the scleral attachment of the tendon, picking up some of the scleral fibres, and on through the conjunctiva anteriorly. The two ends of each suture are now tied, giving the same result as in a resection. By introducing the scleral suture anterior to the tendinous insertion, the result would resemble an advancement. The advantages claimed by the author for his modification of the tuck are security against slipping and a much neater appearance following operation.

—F. M. Pottenger, Monrovia, California, "Some Observations on Inherited Physical and Psychical Characteristics in Tuberculous Patients," M. J. & Record (Jan. 6), 1926.

—Albert H. Rowe, Oakland, California, "Bronchial Asthma in Children and in Young Adults," J. of Dis. Child. (January), 1926.

—H. L. Langnecker, San Francisco, "The Importance of Postural Guidance in the Very Young," California State Board of Health, Bureau of Child Hygiene.

—W. D. Sansum, N. R. Blatherwick and Ruth Bowden, Santa Barbara, "High Carbohydrate Diets in Diabetes Mellitus," J. A. M. A. (January 16), 1926.

—Harold Brunn, San Francisco, "Primary Carcinoma of the Lung: Report of Two Operative Cases," Arch Surg. (January), 1926.

—Zach B. Coblenz, Santa Maria, California, "A Case of Cysticercus of the Skin," J. A. M. A. (October), 1925.

California and Western Medicine has Accepted for publication, in addition to the list last published, the following essays, which will be published in due course of time, as space is available:

James P. Kerby, Salt Lake City, "Anomalies, Diseases and Injuries of the Spine."

Edward Jackson, Denver, Colo., "Care of the Eyes in Middle and Later Life." (This essay was presented at the annual session of the Utah Medical Association.)

L. L. Stanley, San Rafael, Calif., "How Men Die in Prison."

Peter Frandsen, Reno, Nevada, "Anti-Scientific Propaganda."

David Causey, Princeton University, N. J., "Eimeria Butkai N. S. P., a New Coccidian from Man."

Joseph W. Cook, Banning, Calif., "Tuberculosis."

The Dallas Session—Barbecue for Doctors—Typical Texas entertainment is planned for the Annual Session of the American Medical Association, which will convene in Dallas, Texas, April 19-23. A barbecue tendered by Dr. John H. Dean for the 5,000 physicians, guests and exhibitors, totaling more than 10,000 visitors to the Lone-Star State, is an unusual feature planned for this occasion. Eminent physicians will witness carving under the supervision of Mr. Max Hahn, for forty years expert "barbecuer" of Dallas.

Last June, Dr. Dean selected eighty cows with calves about 6 weeks old out of a herd of 4000. These cows were selected according to size, vigor and milk producing qualities, so as to insure a rapid, healthy growth for each calf. The eighty cows and calves were turned into a six-section pasture which had not been used, and which contained an abundance of fresh food and water, assuring the cattle of a properly selected, scientific diet. It is customary to wean calves from the mother after six months, but this plan was not followed with the calves to be used for the barbecue, in order that they might secure their mother's milk, so as to provide the best nourishment for rapid, healthful growth. A full diet was begun for the cattle in December. The calves will be killed in advance of the session and the meat prepared so as to be in the best condition for the barbecue. Mr. Tony Bazar, with a corps of able assistants, has been delegated to arrange for the service during the barbecue.

"The only thing that can keep on growing without nourishment is an ego."—Fresno Republican.